



**OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR
STATE HOUSE**

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2797

REBECCA S. SKILLMAN
LT. GOVERNOR

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Contact: Jay Kenworthy
jkenworthy@lg.in.gov
(317) 232-5674

Lt. Governor Skillman Leading Trade Mission to China

EDITOR'S NOTE: Members of the media are invited to travel with the delegation to China, but must cover costs. If you are interested in accompanying the delegation, please contact Jay Kenworthy by 5 p.m., Friday for further information.

INDIANAPOLIS – Lt. Governor Becky Skillman will lead an agriculture economic development trade mission to China in June, she announced today before a Women In Agriculture luncheon at Dow Agrosience.

Dow will be one of nearly 20 agriculture leaders throughout the state making the trip from June 1 through June 10. Lt. Governor Skillman, who serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture, will be in Zhejiang, Indiana's sister province, from June 3 to June 5. She will then travel to Beijing for the remainder of the trip. The full trip agenda will be released at a later date.

"Indiana is ninth among states in ag exports," Lt. Governor Skillman said. "This administration is devoted to expanding the reach of Hoosier products throughout the world, and numerous business opportunities await in China."

In 2008, Indiana exported \$3.77 billion of food and agriculture products, including nearly \$670 million to China. Since 2005, Indiana has seen more than 4,000 new jobs and \$4 billion in capital investment from food and agriculture producers.

This will be Lt. Governor Skillman's fourth international trade mission since assuming office in 2005. She has also led delegations to Central America in 2005, Taiwan and Vietnam in 2006, and Mexico in 2008.

Past missions have led to on-the-spot business deals for Hoosier producers of wine, hardwoods, and more. Leads developed on these missions have matured into export agreements for Hoosier farmers of all types. The trip will be paid for entirely through private donations.

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